

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A lid assembly for cookware comprising:  
a lid having a top, a rim, and a flange extending downward from the rim;  
5 a handle secured to the top of the lid; and  
a removable flexible band extended around the flange of the lid.
2. The lid assembly of claim 1 wherein, when the lid is on the cookware, the  
band is in frictional, sealing contact with both the lid and the cookware such that  
pressurized air and water vapor inside the cookware can neither dislodge the lid nor  
10 escape from the cookware.
3. The lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the handle forms a central threaded  
longitudinal hole and is secured to the lid by a retainer with external threads that screws  
into the threaded hole in the handle through a central hole in the top of the lid.
4. The lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the handle contains a hole  
15 communicating with a interior of the cookware such that, when pressurized air and water  
vapor pass through the hole, a whistling sound is produced.
5. The lid assembly of claim 4 wherein a movable slide in the handle forms a  
hole which, when fully registered with the hole in the handle produces a higher volume  
whistle; when partly registered with the hole in the handle, produces a lower volume  
20 whistle; and when not registered with the hole in the handle, prevents pressurized air and  
water vapor from passing through the hole in the handle.
6. The lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the flexible band is made of silicone.
7. The lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the handle is secured to the lid by  
inserting an externally threaded retainer up through a central hole in the top of the lid and  
25 rotating the threaded retainer into a longitudinal threaded hole in the handle.

8. The lid assembly of claim 1 wherein, when the lid is on the cookware, the flexible band seals the lid on the cookware, preventing the lid from becoming dislodged when the heated contents of the cookware produce pressurized air and water vapor.

9. A lid assembly for cookware comprising:  
5 a lid having a top, a rim, and a flange extending downward from the rim;  
a handle secured to the top of the lid, the handle containing a whistle; and  
a removable flexible band extended around the flange of the lid.

10. The lid assembly of claim 9 wherein, when the lid is on the cookware, the band is in frictional, sealing contact with both the lid and the cookware such that  
10 pressurized air and water vapor inside the cookware can neither dislodge the lid nor escape from the cookware.

11. The lid assembly of claim 9 wherein the handle forms an internally threaded longitudinal hole and is secured to the top of the lid by an externally threaded retainer that extends up through a central hole in the top of the lid and is screwed into the  
15 hole in the handle.

12. The lid assembly of claim 9 wherein the whistle is formed by a hole in the handle that communicates with the inside of the cookware, the whistle making an audible sound when pressurized air and water vapor pass through the hole.

13. The lid assembly of claim 12 wherein a movable slide in the handle forms  
20 a hole which, when fully registered with the hole in the handle produces a higher volume whistle; when partly registered with the hole in the handle, produces a lower volume whistle; and when not registered with the hole in the handle, prevents pressurized air and water vapor from being exhausted from the hole in the handle.

14. The lid assembly of claim 9 wherein the flexible band is made of silicone.

15. The lid assembly of claim 1 wherein, when the lid is on the cookware, the flexible band seals the lid to the cookware, preventing the lid from becoming dislodged when the heated contents of the cookware produce pressurized air and water vapor.

16. A lid assembly for cookware comprising:

5 a lid having a top, a rim, and a flange extending downward from the rim;  
a removable flexible band extended around the flange of the lid;  
wherein, when the lid is on the cookware, the band provides a friction fit between  
the lid and the cookware such that pressurized air and water vapor in the  
interior of the cookware can neither escape from the cookware nor  
10 dislodge the lid from the cookware.

17. The lid assembly of claim 16 wherein a handle having a whistle is secured to the top of the lid, the whistle emitting an audible sound when pressurized air and water vapor pass through it.

18. The lid assemble of claim 16 wherein a handle is secured to the top of the  
15 lid, the handle having a central longitudinal hole in communication with the interior of the cookware such that when pressurized air and water vapor pass through the hole, an audible sound is emitted.

19. The lid assembly of claim 18 wherein a movable slide in the handle forms a hole which, as it is moved into and out of register with the hole in the handle,  
20 respectively increases and decreases the volume of the audible sound.

20. The lid assembly of claim 16 wherein a handle is secured to the top of the lid by inserting an externally threaded retainer up through a central hole in the top of the lid and rotating the threaded retainer into a longitudinal threaded hole in the handle.